



STAR WARS  
THE SITH WAR  
3 OF 6

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# STAR WARS® TALES OF THE JEDI™

## The Sith War



Anderson • Carrasco • Heike

Hugh  
Fleming  
1995

# STAR WARS® TALES OF THE JEDI™

## The Sith War

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## The Trial of Ulic Qel-Droma

Exar Kun has lured a group of other Jedi — including his former training partner, Crado, and Master Thon's apprentice, Oss Wilum — who are curious to see Kun's much-touted new knowledge. He takes them to his secret hideout on Yavin Four, where he shows them the forbidden Sith Holocron. Claiming he is about to remove the taint of the dark side, Kun smashes the Holocron as the Jedi gather around — but the shards fly outward as if with minds of their own, containing the residue of Sith sorcerers from a forgotten age. The shards strike the unwitting Jedi and are absorbed in a whirlwind of images from the Sith Golden Age. Kun tells his "possessed" converts that the other Jedi will resist, but together they will show the Republic never to underestimate the power of the Sith!

Meanwhile, eager for a decisive military victory, Ulic Qel-Droma decides to strike Coruscant, the capital world itself! With his self-centered lover, Aleema, and his masked general, Mandalore, Ulic launches the assault. What he does not know, however, is that a group of Jedi Knights — including his brother, Cay, and his friend, Nomi Sunrider, along with Master Vodo-Siosk Baas — have come to Coruscant to stop him. Ulic, unknowing, goes forward with a small force to certain capture, while Aleema abandons him and grabs the position of power for herself. She orders a reluctant Mandalore to retreat, claiming that Ulic has been killed.

In the command center, Ulic finds himself without allies and unable to defeat the Jedi Knights. A prisoner, he is hauled off by the leader of the Republic Senate, who vows to bring Ulic to trial immediately, and execute him as a traitor!

ANTOINE.

"I SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN THIS WAR.  
THE FIGHT HAS COME, AND I KNOW  
WHAT IS AT HIS HEART."

"NOT JUST A MILITARY BATTLE FOR  
THE DOMINANCE OF FEW WORLD--  
THAT IS A BATTLE OF LIGHT AND  
DARKNESS, AND AT ITS CENTER IS MY  
OWN STUDENT-- EXIG KUN."

"AS A JEDI MASTER,  
I FAILED HIM..."

"EXIG KUN DEFEATED  
ME, HIS OWN MASTERS,  
IN A LIGHTSABER  
BATTLE..."

"MASTER ARRA  
DEAD..."

"NO!  
I MUST FACE THE  
CONSEQUENCES."

"AND NOW THIS ATTACK ON  
CORUSCANT ITSELF!"

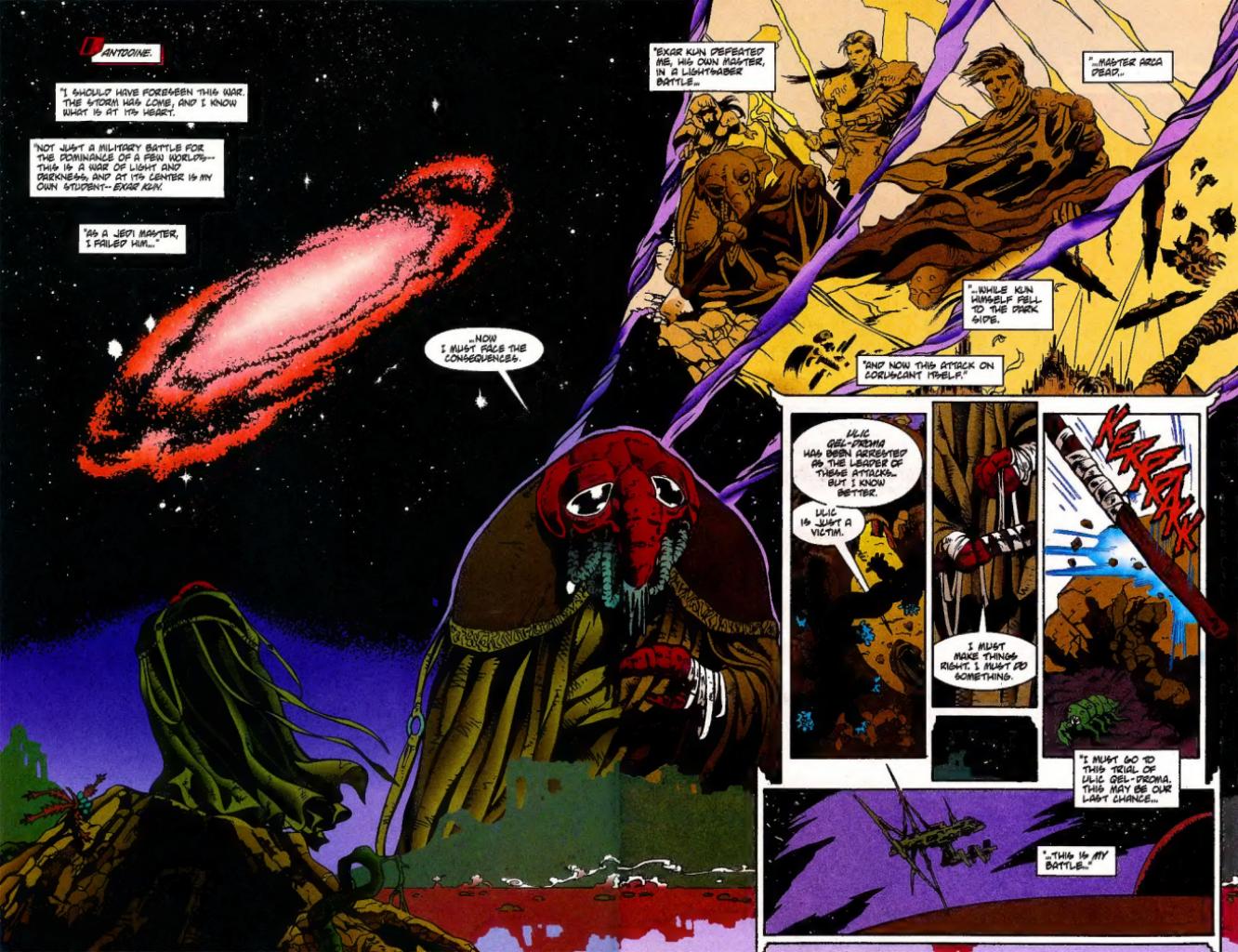
"ULIC  
GEL-DROMA  
HAS BEEN ABUSED  
AS THE SOURCE OF  
THESE ATTACKS--  
BUT I KNOW  
BETTER."

"ULIC  
IS JUST A  
VICTIM."

"I MUST  
DO THINGS  
RIGHT. I MUST DO  
SOMETHING."

"I MUST GO TO  
THIS TRIAL OF  
ULIC GEL-DROMA.  
THIS MAY BE OUR  
LAST CHANCE..."

"THIS IS MY  
BATTLE..."



INNAGAR, IN THE EMPIRE'S  
TETA SYSTEM.

THE KRATH MUST REGROUP,  
NOW THAT THEIR LEADER  
ULIC GEL-DROMA HAS  
BEEN CAPTURED.



BUT NOT ALL OF THE INSURGENT FORCES  
ARE WILLING TO FORGET ABOUT ULIC  
SO EASILY...

THE SAME FATE  
AWAITS ANYONE ELSE WHO  
QUESTIONS MY RIGHT TO RULE  
THE NEW FLEET.

I WONDER HOW  
MANY MORE THERE WILL BE...MY  
PET HASN'T FEED THIS WELL IN A  
LONG TIME!



**N**IN THE WAR ROOM IN CINNABAR,  
MANDALORE ANALYZES THE  
RECENT ABORTIVE ATTACK  
ON CORUSCAN.

WHY DID WE  
FAIL? MY WARRIOR'S MUST  
KNOW, OUR HONOR  
DEMANDS IT.

WHAT DID  
WE FORGET? HOW WAS MY  
MASTER LILIC SO EASILY  
CAPTURED?

OR DID  
ALEEMA CALL A RETREAT  
BEFORE THE TIE HAD  
TUNED?

HAS SHE  
BETRAYED US? I  
MUST CONSIDER THIS  
FURTHER...

LADY ALEEMA,  
I HAVE COME TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR  
RESCUING LILIC.

WE MUST NOT  
LEAVE HIM A PRISONER AMONG  
OUR ENEMIES.

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT LILIC--THE  
JEDI WILL REPRIMAND  
HIM, AND HE WILL  
FORGET ALL  
ABOUT US.

WE ARE TOO  
BUSY. WITH LILIC CAPTURED AND  
EXAR KUN DABBLING WITH HIS NEW  
CONVERTS ON YAVIN FOUR--THIS  
WAR IS UP TO US.

I AM  
SO GLAD YOU'RE  
HERE TO OFFER  
YOUR STRENGTH,  
MANDALORE.

WE HAVE  
MUCH TO PLAN.  
WE CANNOT LOSE OUR  
MOMENTUM NOW--WE HAVE  
RISKED TOO MUCH TO  
DENY OURSELVES  
VICTORY.



**N THE REPUBLIC SENATE HALL  
ON CORUSCANT, AN INQUISITION  
IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE.**

**CAY GEL-DROMA AND NOMI  
SUNRISE RUSH TO ATTEND...  
AND TO SPEAK ON THE  
PRISONER'S BEHALF.**

**THEY'RE  
GOING TO TEAR  
ULIC TO SHREDS!**

**IT DOESN'T  
MATTER--HE'S MY  
BROTHER!**

**I KNOW...**

**ULIC WENT ON A RAMPAGE.  
HE HAD TO BE STOPPED, CAY, NO  
MATTER HOW WE FEEL.**

**WE DID OUR BEST. HE'S BROUGHT  
THIS UPON HIMSELF.**

**A JEDI  
DOESN'T JUST  
GIVE UP,  
SYLVAR!**

**CAN YOU  
BLAME THEM?  
AFTER WHAT HE'S  
DONE?**

**I'M  
AFRAID ULIK IS  
NO LONGER  
THE MAN I  
KNEW...**

**NOMI DOES NOT SAY OUT  
LOUD, "...AND LOVED."**



AVIN FOUR

ULIC GEL-DROMA IS ONLY THE MOST  
VISIBLE PART OF THE PLOT... BUT HE  
ISN'T THE ONLY THREAT.

NOT BY ANY MEANS!

AFTER RETRIEVING THEIR OWN  
SHIPS, EXAR KUN'S DARK JEDI  
CONVERTS RETURN TO THE  
ISOLATED JUNGLE MOON.

THE TIME  
HAS COME FOR  
OUR FIRST AND MOST  
IMPORTANT  
STRIKE.

THE OLD  
JEDI MASTERS ARE THE  
CRUMBLING FOUNDATION OF THIS  
FOSSILIZED ORDER...

BEFORE WE  
CAN PROCEED  
TO OUR GOLDEN  
AGE, WE MUST  
REMOVE THE  
FOUNDATIONS...

...LEVEL  
THE FIELD.

"MAKE ROOM FOR  
THE NEW."

GO AND STRIKE  
DOWN YOUR OWN JEDI MASTERS! THEY  
WILL SUSPECT NOTHING...UNTIL IT  
IS TOO LATE.

WE WILL  
BE LIKE A  
KNIFE IN THE  
NIGHT...FAST,  
SILENT, AND  
DEADLY!!

WHAT...WHAT  
DO YOU WANT ME TO  
DO, EXAR? AM I SUPPOSED  
TO...KILL MASTER  
VODO?

NO, GRADO--  
GO WITH OSS  
WILLUM.

"HE MAY NEED YOUR HELP.  
MASTER THON WILL BE  
DIFFICULT."

"LEAVE VODO TO ME..."

AS THE SHIPS  
DEPART ON THEIR  
INSIDIOUS MISSION,  
ANOTHER CRAFT  
ARRIVES,  
UNEXPECTEDLY.



EXAR KUN  
I MUST SPEAK  
WITH YOU.

I HAVE  
BURNED OUT  
MY ENGINES TO  
COME HERE AS  
FAST AS I  
COULD.

MY MASTER,  
ULIC QEL-DROMA,  
HAS BEEN CAPTURED.  
THE REPUBLIC WILL  
PLACE HIM ON  
TRIAL.

I MUST  
RESCUE HIM... OR  
DIE TRYING.

AND  
YOU WANT MY  
HELP.

VERY WELL,  
LET'S GO FREE  
POOR Ulic. PERHAPS  
HE'LL TAKE MY ADVICE  
FROM NOW ON WHEN I  
WARN HIM AGAINST  
RASH ACTIONS...

...AND WE  
CAN SHOW THE  
REPUBLIC THAT  
THEY HAVE NO  
HOPE AGAINST  
US.

DRUGCANT, THE REPUBLIC  
SENATE CHAMBER.

ULIC QEL-DROMA,  
YOU ARE A THREAT TO  
THE PEACE AND SECURITY  
OF THE GALACTIC  
REPUBLIC.

YOUR LIST  
OF CRIMES IS LONG--THE  
DESTRUCTION OF SHIPYARDS, THE  
LOOTING OF SUPPLY BASES,  
THE ENSLAVEMENT OF  
MERCENARIES.

AND,  
EVEN WORSE--  
YOU HAVE BETRAYED  
YOUR TRAINING AS  
A JEDI!  
KNIGHT--

--YOUR  
VOW TO PROTECT  
THE REPUBLIC!  
HOW DO YOU  
PLEAD?

I DON'T  
PLEAD WITH FOOLS.  
YOU ARE PUPPETS OF  
TRADITION  
PRETENDING TO BE  
IMPORTANT.



"THE COMING GOLDEN AGE HAS NO PLACE FOR YOU."

"YOUR REPUBLIC IS AN EMPTY, SELF-INDULGENT DIVERSION..."

"...SIGNIFYING NOTHING."

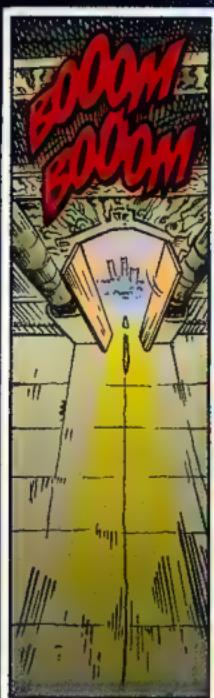
THE LOST GLORY OF THE Sith WILL TURN ALL OF YOUR SUPPOSED ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DUST!

ULIC, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WAIT! I'LL MAKE THEM LISTEN?

CAY, STOP THIS! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.

SENATORS, I BEG YOU, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. HE IS GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE DEATH OF MASTER ARCA. HE INTENDED TO INFILTRATE THE KRATH, BUT THEY HAVE...WRAPPED HIM SOMEHOW.

SO MUCH GOOD SERVICE FOR THE REPUBLIC. PLEASE REMEMBER...









THE SITH  
EMPIRE WILL RISE  
AGAIN, AND WE ARE  
THE SPARK.

...WE  
ARE THE  
SPARK...

"THE FLAMES WILL WASH OVER  
THE CRUMBLING REPUBLIC AND  
CONSUME ALL YOUR WORKS..."

"...ESTABLISHING THE GLORIOUS DAYS OF  
A LOST GOLDEN AGE, FAR GREATER  
THAN ANY OF US CAN KNOW."

"YOU CAN CHOOSE EITHER TO BE A  
PART OF THIS GREAT REBIRTH, OR YOU  
CAN STAND IN OUR WAY."

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER TO US--WE WILL  
SUCCEED, WITH YOU OR  
AGAINST YOU.

"LOOK, ULLIC--THEY'RE  
SPEECHLESS."













JOIN  
ME, MASTER  
YODA.



THIS  
IS NOT THE END?  
EXAR KUN.

YOU AND I  
WILL FIGHT AGAIN...  
PERHAPS NOT FOR  
A LONG TIME, BUT  
I WILL DEFEAT  
YOU.



WORDS.  
GO ON TO YOUR  
HIGHER PLANE, TEACHER.  
THE GALAXY IS MINE  
NOW.



LIKE WHISPERS FROM THE PAST, EXAR KUN RECALLS  
WORDS THAT MASTER YODA ONCE SAID TO HIM... "I  
SENSE SOMETHING MISSING IN YOU-- AN EMPTY PLACE  
HIDDEN EVEN FROM YOURSELF, A PLACE THAT REMAINS  
UNSEEN BECAUSE NO LIGHT ESCAPES FROM THAT  
REGION OF YOUR HEART."



NEXT!  
JEDI  
HOLOCOAST!

# JEDI JOURNALS

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I sent out preview copies of *Sith War* #1 some time back, and we've gotten some interesting feedback, so let's get right to it:

Khalil West  
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Orange, NJ 07050-3335

Well, what can I say . . . the Dark Horse *Star Wars* team has once again proven their ability to tell a *Star Wars* story with the same skill as the saga's creator. Beginning with *Dark Empire*, you guys [and gals!] have been the leaders in the *Star Wars* revival, and have exerted every effort to keep the saga alive.

*Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — The Sith War* is a very welcome addition to an excellent series of Dark Horse *Star Wars* comics. Issue #1 is blessed with the intriguing story line and nicely scripted dialogue that we have come to expect from Kevin J. Anderson, and of course the wonderful cover art by Hugh Fleming. As far as Dario Carrasco's pencils are concerned, I have no choice but to praise him as well, for he has accurately captured the spirit of *Star Wars* in his drawings. He seems to have kept in mind the roughness of the universe in which lightsabers and X-wings can coexist, and didn't make everything sleek in the *Star Trek* tradition. I also have to note the faces: while being so fantastically and incredibly angular, the expressions are such that it seems the dialogue need not be written at all.

With all these attributes, there is one aspect present in the story line that has become a little redundant. In nearly every story line, why is it that, while the Jedi are blessed with such enhanced senses (being able to sense danger and what not) and other

abilities unimaginable to us, they seem so unbelievably gullible and naive. While I'm sure the temptations of the dark side are extremely difficult to resist, and that it is inevitable that some Jedi will "fall from grace," how is it possible that so many able and intelligent young Jedi are that easily deceived by Exar Kun in issue #1? Their Masters must have been complete fools not to have warned them of the dark side's two basic temptations: knowledge and power — both of which (at the time of seduction) they are not prepared for, have not earned, and will ultimately be driven to the brink of sanity by.

However, to fully enjoy the story, we must at least temporarily dismiss logic and reason and allow this portion to pass without a second thought as to why the Jedi did not know better. And if after this dismissal, one is left with an adventuresome, action-packed, and logical story, then that story is a winner. *The Sith War*, and in fact most Dark Horse *Star Wars* comics (excluding the *Droids* series, which was all too reminiscent of the '80s cartoon) are winners in my opinion. You can expect my \$2.50 for each of the following issues. Keep up the good work and many thanks for keeping *Star Wars* alive . . .



Kathleen Herlihy  
145 Cheney Lane  
Newington, CT 06111

I have read your preview of *Tales of The Jedi: The Sith War*, with the Jedi turned Sith Lord, Ulic Qel-Droma. I'll tell you what I thought of it: it was great, I loved it! It's a masterpiece! Kevin J. Anderson wows me again. The artistry was absolutely

fabulous. Hugh Fleming's magnificent cover was beautiful. The story fit like Cinderella's glass slipper with the art; it was chemistry.

Dark Horse, you have topped yourselves again. I have loved *Tales of the Jedi*, *The Freedon Nadd Uprising*, *Dark Lords of the Sith*, *Classic Star Wars*, and *Dark Empire I & II*. And *Sith War*, oui, oui! Eat your heart out, Marvel!

Thank you for the cool preview. I know I'll buy it. May the Force be with you.



Ramsey Forrest  
2, Clos du Cinquantenaire  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium  
CompuServe: 100601,3215

Thank you for the preview copy of *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — The Sith War* #1 you recently sent me. The story line of this first issue is excellent, and is in my opinion the best *Tales Of The Jedi* issue since *The Freedon Nadd Uprising*. It more than makes up for the somewhat disappointing end of *Dark Lords*. *The Sith War* stays more within the storytelling style of the *Star Wars* movies, telling a galactic story through individual people.

The pencils are better and worse than Chris Gossett's. The ships and weapons (especially lightsabers) are better, but I preferred Gossett's style of drawing the characters and facial close-ups.

The issue is great overall, however, and if the same storytelling and drawing quality is kept up throughout the series it should make the best *Star Wars* comics series ever.



Mary Jo Fox  
PO Box 215  
Vienna, VA 22181

Imagine my surprise when I found *The Sith War* #1 preview waiting in my mailbox! I had been dying to read more on the adventures of Nomi Sunrider, Ulic Qel-Droma, Exar Kun, et al., since *Dark Lords of the Sith* #6 came out. Well, it was worth the wait. Mandalorian warriors, epic battles, betrayals, super-cool technology, the struggle between light and dark . . . who needs "Days of Our Lives"?! This stuff is juicier than a rare bantha steak. Admittedly, I was a bit apprehensive as to what would happen to the story without Tom Veitch. After all, he had originated the *TOTJ* story line. But Kevin J. Anderson is displaying a talent for writing comics, and thus far, he's keeping true to the feel of the *TOTJ* series.

Dario Carrasco's pencils remind me a lot of Chris Gossett's work. His human and alien faces are all right, but the battle scenes on the ground and in space look great! I can't wait to see the final product colored.

The real icing on the cake is Hugh Fleming's beautiful cover. This guy is really going to go far. I saw the cover art he did for an Australian *Star Wars* convention program, depicting that famous scene with Luke Skywalker watching the two sunsets on the horizon . . . it was gorgeous.

Looks like you've got another winner on your hands. A tip of the lightsaber to ye all!

P.S.: Why don't you call the lettercol "Sith Happens"?

Well . . . uh . . .



Jennifer Wales  
2719 Wavell St.  
Camp Lejeune, NC 28546

You did it again! *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — The Sith War* is so filled with great stuff that it amazes me how you can fit it in a comic book. I think Kevin J. Anderson did an excellent job, and the art both inside and out blew my mind! The only flaw is

the wait for the next one! I also adore the fact that women in these comics are not merely damsels in distress, something enjoyed by not only myself but also by my pen pal Celena Yussen. Once again you outdid yourself in all areas. May the Force be with you.



Michelle Slaughter  
RR5, Box 632  
Ellijay, GA 30540

I can't tell you how happy I was to have received your advance copy of *Star Wars: TOTJ — The Sith War*. This is a special treat for me since I do not often get out to the comic stores. Living in a small town does have its drawbacks . . .

I was sorry to hear that Tom Veitch would not be working on this series as well, but Anderson does a fine job on his own. Who could possibly know the inner workings of Exar Kun's mind better than him? And the story line is up to the usual *Star Wars* standards: wonderful! Not only does Ulic capture two armies and an entire fleet, but he plans to use them to attack Coruscant on top of that. And what a way to rub it in Exar Kun's face: "Only twenty [Knights]?" Having missed the last three issues of *Dark Lords of the Sith*, I was not aware that Aleema was so involved in Ulic's life. What a devious little thing she is. And it appears that Nomi is going to go far . . . maybe even turn out to be the galaxy's savior.

Dario Carrasco, Jr. is, indeed, a wonderful penciller. I'm so glad to see that he has not tried to change that oh-so-cool retro look that was first introduced in *TOTJ*. (I was never crazy about the idea of a Jedi "uniform.") And Carrasco has certainly refined this new look. It even looks beautiful in black and white. Bravo!

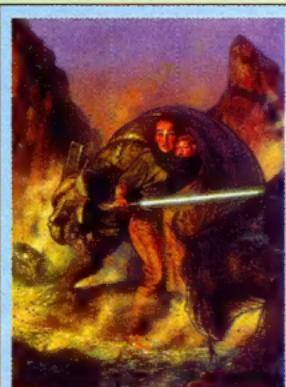
Jordi Ensign and Willie Schubert have done their jobs as well as ever, and I'm certain that the same can be said of Pam Rambo (though it's impossible to tell from this issue). And where can I get Hugh Fleming posters? Is there any way to buy the work he does for your *Star*

*Wars* line? I know, I know . . . that's pretty much impossible.

My only point of criticism is small and probably inconsequential. The problem I have is with the use of the language. Up until this point, we've been given a more formal and thusly older-sounding style of speaking. Now, we suddenly have, "Sounds great, Exar." There are not many of these such phrases, but there are enough to change the feel of certain scenes. Again, this is a small thing, but it is something I noticed.

All in all, this was a wonderful story, and I cannot wait to see where it is going to go. Great job, ladies and gentlemen! Keep up the good work . . . we love you for it!

In regard to Hugh Fleming's original art, Michelle, you and I would both love to have a piece or two hanging on our walls. According to Hugh, though, he still feels too attached to them, too much the *Star Wars* fanboy himself, to put them up for sale just yet.



## NEXT MONTH:

Exar Kun's insidious Jedi holocaust takes form across the galaxy, and an entirely different wave of destruction rushes toward Ossus! See you in 30.

— Bob Cooper